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December 5, 2025

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Morning Star

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Titans continue making MHSAA football history

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

A 28-14 win by Lumen Christi Catholic High School over Kingsley Friday at Ford Field gives the Titans more history making.

Lumen won the Division 6 title Friday afternoon in Detroit.

The win was the 15th football championship for LC – extending its state record for most football titles.

Herb Brogan ties John Herrington of Farmington Hills Harrison for most titles with 13. His teams won titles in various classes and divisions in 1996, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Lumen Christi won its first two football titles under Jim Crowley in 1977 and 1979 in Class B.

Brogan took over the program 1980 and has won 13 football state titles.

The Titans have now won four consecutive state titles in football – one off the state record of five held by Grand Rapids West Catholic, Harrison, and East Grand Rapids.

LC is tied with Muskegon Catholic Central, Detroit St. Martin, and Ithaca with four consecutive state championships.

Lumen Christi has now also tied Farmington Hills Harrison and Detroit Catholic Central for most state finals appearances with 18.

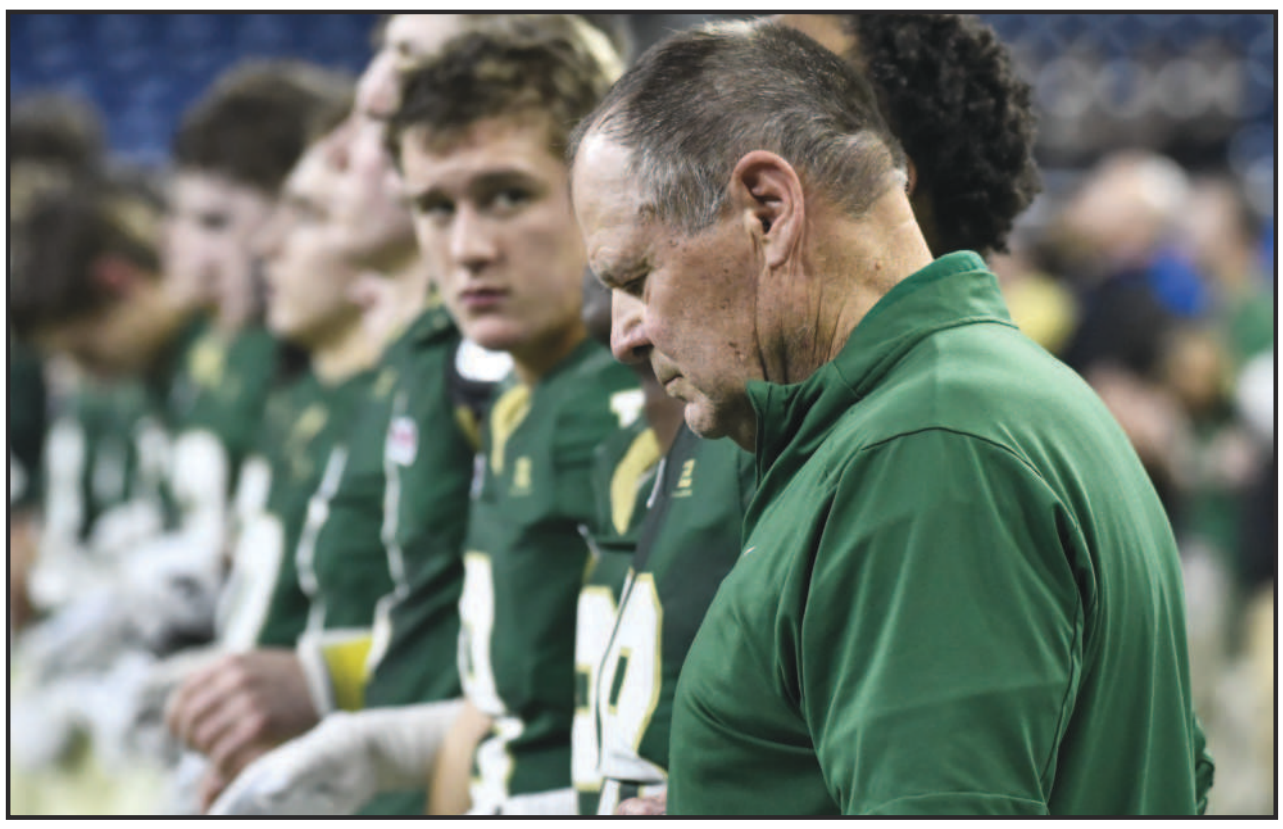


Photo by Jeff Steers

Lumen Christi Catholic High School football Coach Herb Brogan has won 13 state titles as a head coach.

See Championship game coverage and photos on Page B-1

Road rage leads to Concord man's death on M-60

By KEN WYATT
Contributing Writer

Keegan Vowels, a 22-year-old Concord man died from injuries suffered on Black Friday in a road-rage episode along M-60.

Here is a summary of what happened from the Michigan State Police:

"On Nov. 28, at approximately 6:07 p.m., troopers from the Michigan State Police Jackson Post responded to a crash involving a single vehicle and two pedestrians near M-60 and N. Main Street. Preliminary investigation indicates that two vehicles were involved in a road-rage incident. The drivers of the vehicles — a Chevy Malibu operated by a 22-year-old Concord man and a Jeep Cherokee operated by a 24-year-old Parma man — pulled onto the shoulder of the roadway and exited their vehicles. The two subjects then began physically fighting in the roadway.

"While the individuals were in the roadway, a westbound Ram 1500 pickup driven by a 62-year-old Hanover man struck both subjects. Both men were transported to Henry Ford Hospital, where the driver of the Malibu was pronounced deceased from injuries sustained in the crash. The driver of the Jeep was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Ram was not injured. Alcohol and drugs are not believed to be factors for any of the drivers involved."

There were witnesses to what happened, and their accounts differ with each other as to what provoked the original confrontation and fight.

Piecing together various accounts, it appears that the Jeep, carrying three family members returning from hunting, pulled out onto M-60 from Concord's Main Street. The Chevy pulled out behind the Jeep. There was hostile interaction between the two vehicles. Accounts from the families involved differ as to who did what.

The Jeep pulled off to the road shoulder just past the old Jenks Oil Station and the Chevy also pulled over.

A fight ensued between the two drivers on high ground overlooking the Concord Mill Pond. Unfortunately, it moved out onto the roadway, where the westbound Ram 1500 struck the two men.

A woman from the Albion area, who arrived at the scene minutes afterwards, says that the woman passenger with the young man driving the Chevy kept yelling and screaming. "I felt sorry for her. Hugged her. Told her it's okay. It was not a good sight to see that young man in the road getting CPR for 15 minutes."

Neither the state police nor Concord fire chief would identify the young man. However, within the community his identity has been widely shared by many on social media.

Photos by Ken Wyatt

This is the stretch of M-60, looking west toward the flashing light at Main Street, where the road-rage episode played out with tragic results.

In his Tuesday report from Lansing's Fox47, Darius Udrys interviewed the young woman who was with the driver of the Chevy and identified him as Keegan Vowels, the woman's boyfriend.

A GoFundMe appeal has been launched by a family friend, Kent Miller of Westland. It seeks $11,000 to defray Vowell's funeral and memorial expenses, with any extra going to the care of his young daughter. At this writing, nearly $5,000 has been raised. Here is the link: Fundraiser by Kent Miller : Support Keegan Vowels' Funeral & Family

Miller was with the family on Thanksgiving day. He wrote on Facebook, "We had such an amazing Thanksgiving listening to him karaoke 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', laughing, and just enjoying the moment with the rest of the family. Such a beautiful day followed with such a terribly tragedy. Lord, please help this family as we all try to make sense of it and grieve in our own way."

The wife of the man involved in the road fight with Vowels also took to Facebook with an account - as she put it, to counter misinformation and threats made against the family.

"No one was pushed," she concluded. "It was not a hit and run. A physical altercation led two individuals into the road where they were impacted by a truck, leading to devastation on both families."

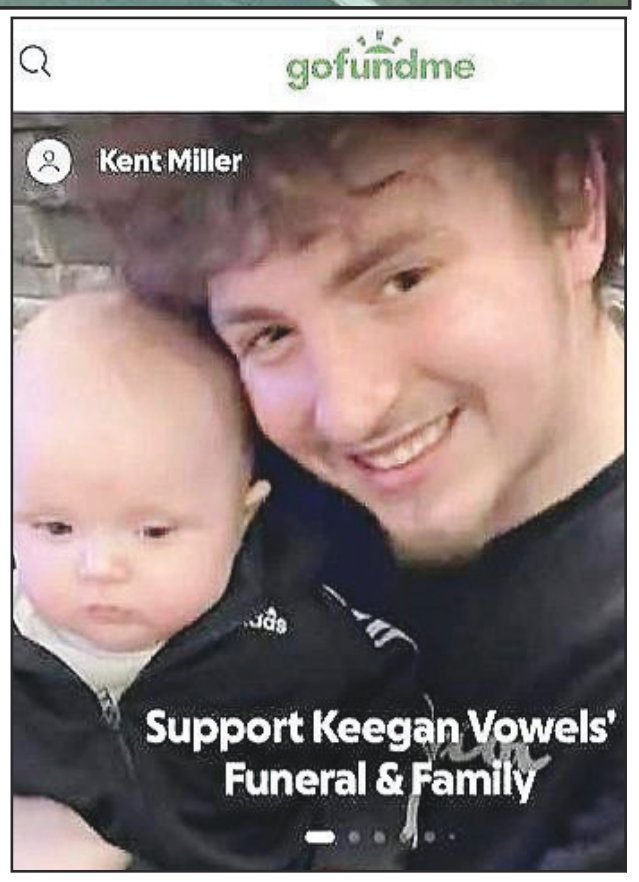
In a CBSDetroit report in March of this year, Lt. Rene Gonzalez of the Michigan State Police said he had noticed an almost daily uptick in road-rage incidents being reported in the state. He listed four tips on how to handle yourself when confronting the problem:

-Stay calm: If you encounter aggressive driving, remain calm and do not engage with the driver;

- Report aggressive drivers: If you witness road rage, report it to the police. Provide detailed information about the driver, including the vehicle make, model, color, license plate number and the road they were traveling on;

- Avoid exiting your car: Never leave your vehicle to confront a belligerent driver. You don't know who is out there and what they are capable of;

- Be courteous: Try to stay calm and patient while driving. Understand that other drivers may be under stress, even if you are not.



This is a screenshot of the GoFundMe appeal for funeral and other expenses following the death of Keegan Vowels, shown in the photo with his 2-year-old daughter.

In the Concord incident, state police were assisted at the scene by the Concord Fire Department, Spring Arbor Fire Department, and Jackson Community Ambulance. The entire incident remains under investigation by the state police.

Do you need help? Write Us!

Read Christmas Wish letters and find out how you can hlep on page B-4

By MIKE WILCOX
Owner/Publisher

Every year, as the Christmas season draws near, I'm reminded just how generous our communities can be. For nearly two decades, Wilcox Newspapers has hosted what's become one of my favorite traditions: our Annual Christmas Wish Program.

It started simply enough. We asked readers who were struggling to write in and tell us what would make their Christmas a little brighter. The idea was to connect local families in need with local people who wanted to help. Over the years, it's grown into something truly special—and this year, we're doing it again.

Lately, I've heard from more families than ever who are struggling to make ends meet. The rising cost of everyday necessities, from groceries and gas to rent and utilities, has stretched household budgets thin. It's been a tough year for a lot of people, and many are finding themselves in need of a little extra help just to get by.

If you or your family are going through a difficult time, I encourage you to write to us and be as specific as you can. Tell us about your situation, your family, and how we might help make your holiday a little brighter. Most importantly, explain why you need our help. We prefer you email us at wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com, but if you don't have access to a computer, you can always mail a letter to P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010.

Over the years, I've been amazed at the generosity that pours in from our readers and advertisers. One afternoon, while vacuuming our new office, I noticed an envelope on the floor. Inside were 10 $100 bills—no note, no name, just a quiet act of kindness from someone who wanted to help. Another time, a donor sent $2,000. Several more gave $1,000 each. For a Scrooge like me, it's humbling to see just how deeply people here care for one another.

Last year alone, we were able to raise more than $20,000 in cash and gifts, helping over 70 families enjoy the holidays. This year, our goal is even higher. We hope to assist at least 100 families within our circulation areas.

I've always believed in the saying, "We take care of our own," and nowhere is that truer than in the communities we serve. So, if you legitimately need help this Christmas, and I stress LEGITIMATELY, please reach out to us. And if you're in a position to give, know that your generosity can change someone's holiday, and maybe their outlook on life, for the better.

Turkey Trot race celebrates its 21st year

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Photo by Jeff Steers

Participants take off during the Kids Fun Run at the annual Turkey Trot at Ella Sharp Park on Thanksgiving.

A once small gathering of runners looking for a workout on Thanksgiving morning has turned into one of the largest running events in Jackson County.

The Turkey Trot began 21 years ago with seven participants.

This year the event at Ella Sharp Park entered 1,421 runners and walkers in the 10K, 5K, and Kids Fun Run.

Race director Jeff Beagle wrote on the race's website that the event started in 2005.

"It began as a way to get an early workout in before helping my wife prepare the Thanksgiving Day dinner with our family," Beagle wrote. "What started with a group of seven friends has grown into an awesome Turkey Trot.

"Now, together with other athletes, volunteers, and sponsors, we raise funds that will benefit our Jackson Community."

The race is the final event for 2025 of the ORS Race Series – a 13-event race series that begins in February.

Zackery Ludtke of Springport won the 10K event in 36 minutes, 16.07 seconds and Kathryn Anderson won the women's 10K in 41:05.

Zeb Swager of Traverse City took first place in the 5K race with a time of 15:57 and Gibson Shore was second in 16:07. Eliza Bush of Jackson won the women's event in 18:37.

Mandy Frye of Marshall won the 5K walk in 33:56 and Olivia Snabes of Jackson was second walking in 34.26.

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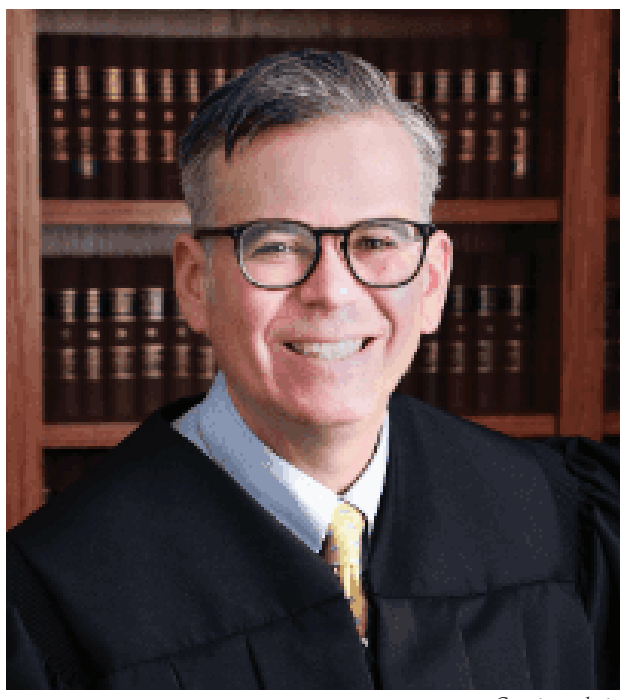
Mental Health Court is now running in Jackson

By ELIZABETH FERSZT
Contributing Writer



Courtesy photo

Judge Robert Gaecke

Jackson County 12th District Court now has a Mental Health Court division, dedicated to cases in which defendants, who are charged with misdemeanors or minor felonies, also have a history and diagnosis of a mental health disorder.

Hon. Judge Robert Gaecke, Jr. has been named to preside over the court, in addition to his regular docket of 12th District cases, both criminal and civil.

Judge Gaecke will also have sentencing privileges in the 4th Circuit Court by referral.

According to Khalil Paule, interim coordinator of MHC, "As of [Dec. 2] we now have two participants," meaning two defendants who have been charged with nonviolent crimes, and are being processed through the mental health lane instead of the regular criminal process.

Defendants have to show a "persistent SMI (Serious Mental Illness) diagnosis and be evaluated at LifeWays" in order to qualify for diversion to this court, said Paule.

Jackson County received a grant from the State of Michigan State Courts Administrative Office for approximately $105,000 to implement the program earlier this fall. The program seeks "treatment not jail, and mental stability" for its participants, said Paule.

However, defendants cannot be facing charges of serious and/or violent actions such as homicide or criminal sexual conduct; most misdemeanors qualify, explained Paule.

There is also a cap on sentencing guidelines for the crime; it can't be more than five years in prison, and defendants need to plead guilty to the charges against them. They then will be put on probation and given a treatment plan as part of their sentence, again in partnership with LifeWays.

"It's similar to Drug Treatment Court," said Paule, where alleged perpetrators of minor crimes such as public nuisance, trespass, or public disorder are dealt with in a more humane way.

According to the Jackson County Courts website, Judge Gaecke was appointed to the 12th District Court [by Gov. G. Whitmer] in April 2022. He was later elected to a six-year term later that year. His current term expires on Dec. 31, 2028.

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Obituary

HENRY JOSEPH COMPERCHIO, age 82, of Jackson, passed away on Nov. 27, 2025, with his wife and family by his bedside. He was born in Jackson on Aug. 5, 1943, the son of the late Rocco and Rose (Grippi) Comperchio.

Henry grew up in a strong Catholic Italian family. He was fortunate to be raised surrounded by rich Italian culture and customs and blessed to be part of a large extended Italian community in and around the Jackson area (the DeNicolas, Foshis, Grippis, Dragonettis, Divitris, Gencos, Iunis, etc.).

As a young man, Henry served in the U.S. Air Force, where he worked in crash fire rescue as part of their fire department. Upon discharge, he returned home and became a fireman for the City of Jackson (1964–1982). He held a variety of positions (firefighter, driver, fire inspector, and captain) and received several awards, citations, and recognitions for services performed during that time. The brotherhood of the firemen he worked with meant a great deal to Henry. Many memories and lifelong friendships were formed because of it.

During his years as a fireman, Henry met his best friend Susan, who later became his wife. They married in 1979 and shared 49 wonderful years together.

After working at the fire department, Henry continued his commitment to community service with his election to Blackman Township, where he served for 20 years, first as a Trustee from 1980–1984, and then as Clerk from 1984–2000.

People enjoyed visiting with Henry at the little café area inside the Jackson Target store, where he could often be found shooting the breeze and people-watching. He had a knack for getting a laugh or a smile out of those around him and was known as an outgoing individual who certainly spoke his mind. Because he was such a "fixture" at that location, Target gifted him the table he sat at when the café closed. A special thank you to all his Target Group friends, including Mary Gillette and Marda Bronson, for their friendship, love, care, and support over the years.

Henry was preceded in death by his parents, Rocco Joseph Comperchio and Rose Marie (Grippi) Comperchio; daughter, Rosette Marie (Comperchio) Adkins; siblings, Samuel Comperchio, Joseph Comperchio, and Andrew Comperchio; brother-in-law, Guy DeNicola; sister-in-law, Carolyn Comperchio; former sister-in-law, Sandy Comperchio; niece, Crissy Comperchio; former daughter-in-law, Sheila Comperchio; and great-grandchild, Garette Clark.

Henry is survived by his devoted wife and best friend, Susan (Mayer) Comperchio; daughters, Mary (Bruce) Ehrhardt, Michelle Comperchio, and Josette (Jeff) Kennedy; son, Robert Comperchio; son-in-law, Gary Adkins; sister-in-law, Sheilah Comperchio; sister, Carmella DeNicola (with whom he shared a very close, loving, and warm relationship); and many nieces, (including Karen DeNicola Hoaglin, who has taken such wonderful care of his sister, Carol, and made sure she was able to visit with him), as well as many nephews. Henry was blessed with, and is survived by, 16 beautiful, talented grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. May they carry on his legacy and memory.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the Henry Ford Hospice Home nurses and aides for their exceptional care, compassion, and support.

In honor of Henry's wishes, cremation has taken place and no funeral service or life celebration will be held. Mass intentions have been arranged at St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish. Condolences for the family can be shared at www.lauerfhjackson.com. Contributions in Henry's honor may be made to Henry Ford Hospice Home, or St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish. Henry will be laid to rest at Fifield Cemetery in Blackman Township in the spring.

May the memory of Henry's mischievous smile and his sense of humor bring comfort to those who knew and loved him.

LAUER FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

Jackson County Chamber and Experience Jackson announce new appointment

Courtesy photo
Melissa Burgett

JACKSON – Melissa Burgett, will take on the role of vice president of community and business engagement for the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and Experience Jackson.

Burgett assumes the role of Tim Booth, who joined the Chamber staff over six years ago. He will remain on staff throughout the transition before beginning his retirement in early 2026.

Burgett brings a unique blend of strategic outreach, relationship-building, and community leadership to the role. Prior to joining the Chamber, she served as community outreach coordinator for Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists, where she led initiatives that connected healthcare providers with the community through educational events, race series, and scholarship programs.

"We are thrilled to welcome Melissa to the team. Her extensive background directing initiatives and engagement makes her a powerful addition to help drive our strategic vision forward," said Ryan Tarrant, president and CEO of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce and Experience Jackson. "Having a leader of Melissa's caliber in this role positions both the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and Experience Jackson for significant growth and continued success."

A Cleveland native, Burgett earned her bachelor's degree in athletic training from Ohio University and a Master's in Community Counseling from John Carroll University. Outside of work, she enjoys time on the lake with her husband and two children and actively supports youth sports in the Jackson area.

"My vision is to create a welcoming and innovative space where people, businesses, and ideas come together to strengthen connections and build a thriving community for everyone," said Burgett.

Learn more about Experience Jackson at www.ExperienceJackson.com. Learn more about the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce at www.jackson-chamber.org.

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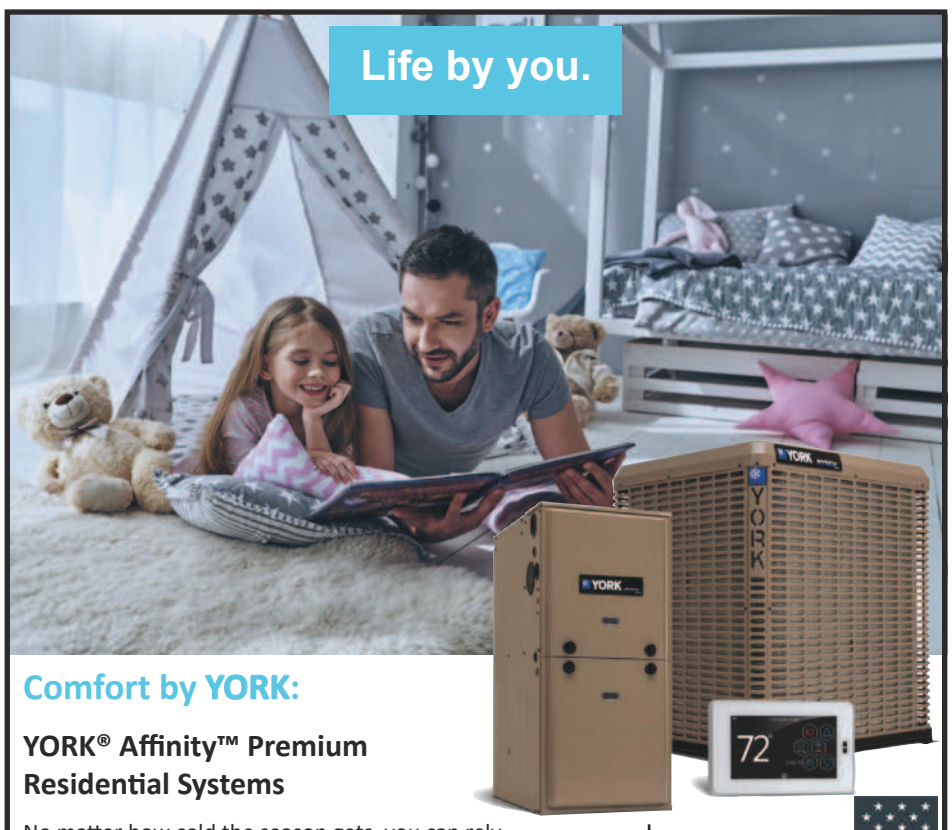
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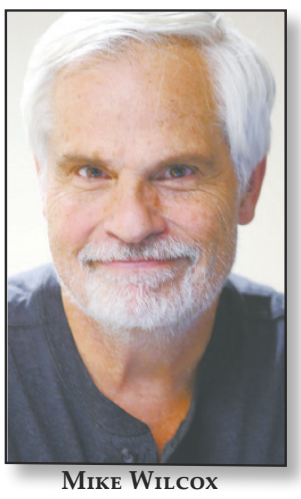
Mike's Musings

Why America needs controlled borders, not open ones



Mike Wilcox
Publisher

The debate over America's border policies often gets tangled in national politics, angry cable-news segments, and social-media shouting. But beneath all that noise, the issue comes down to something our readers in Allegan, Clare, Van Buren, St. Joseph, Calhoun, Jackson and the communities we cover understand very clearly: a nation—just like a town, a home, or a business—cannot function without clear rules, enforced boundaries, and a plan for who enters.

Yet some political voices are pushing for open borders, or policies that come dangerously close to them. They argue that the United States should allow anyone from anywhere to come in freely, without limits. It may sound compassionate. It may make for a tidy slogan on a protest sign. But it is not practical, sustainable, or fair to the communities that end up bearing the burden.

Let's be honest: even today, with borders now controlled, many towns and cities are overwhelmed because of the migrants allowed in during the previous administration. Major urban areas—New York, Chicago, Denver—are already scrambling to find housing, schooling, and medical care for the millions of migrants that passed through our borders. These aren't wealthy municipalities with unlimited budgets; their cities are now cutting other services to make room for immigration-related needs.

If large cities with billions in resources are struggling, imagine the strain on smaller Midwestern counties like ours. We operate on thin margins. Local schools depend on millages. Hospitals in rural Michigan aren't exactly swimming in extra beds, staff, or dollars. When the federal government fails to manage the border, it's towns like ours that end up dealing with the consequences—without the funding to do so.

Controlled borders are not about shutting the door. They are about managing the flow so communities, charities, schools, and law enforcement can keep up. It's about making sure that immigration works for everyone, not just for those who cross the border but for the taxpayers asked to support them.

There's also a basic issue of fairness. Millions of people immigrate legally, filling out paperwork, waiting years for approval, and going through background checks. That process reflects America's values: order, opportunity, fairness, and respect for the law. It is a long, arduous process, but one that has worked for decades. But when illegal entry becomes commonplace—or worse, when it becomes tolerated—those who follow the rules are treated as fools for bothering.

Then there's the impact on wages and local job markets. We're often told immigrants do jobs "Americans won't do." The truth is more complicated. Americans will do those jobs when employers offer fair wages. But if industries can rely on an endless stream of low-wage labor crossing the border illegally, the pressure to raise wages evaporates. That hurts every working family, immigrant and American alike.

Controlled borders protect workers by keeping wages honest.

Most importantly, border security is a matter of national safety. We check IDs to enter a high school gymnasium. We require driver's licenses at traffic stops. We enforce rules at courthouses, airports, and even small-town festivals. Yet some believe the border of the United States—the very line that separates us from the rest of the world—should be the one place where rules don't apply.

That defies common sense.

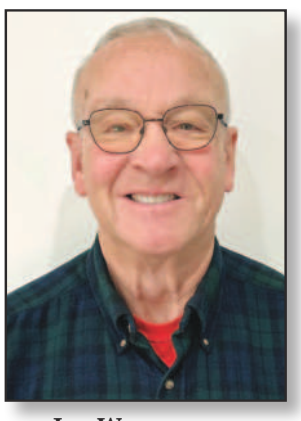
America can remain a generous, welcoming country. We always have been. But generosity without limits isn't generosity at all—it becomes chaos. One only has to look across the Atlantic to Sweden, Belgium or other EU nations that are rapidly approaching chaos because of their border policies. A stable nation can accept newcomers only at a pace it can absorb, and only when it knows who is entering and why.

Controlled borders are not anti-immigrant. They are pro-stability, pro-community, and pro-America. They protect our towns, our budgets, our workers, and our national integrity. If we want immigration to succeed, if we want newcomers to thrive—we must manage it, not surrender to it.

The path forward is simple: secure the borders, enforce the rules, and welcome people at a sustainable, lawful pace. That's not cruel. That's responsible. And it's what this country needs right now.

Looking Out

Big mugs



Jim Whitehouse
Guest Columnist

"It is the best of times, it is the worst of times," I mutter.

"Why are you quoting Tale of Two Cities?" says Marsha who can hear my mutters from a mile away.

"Paraphrasing," I say, as I try to cram another gigantic stainless steel cup into the dishwasher. When I start banging on it with my hand, Marsha intercedes on behalf of the dishwasher.

"Tsk tsk."

"I know, I know. Act my age. Getting mad at a Brobdingnagian cup is childish," I say, giving it one more whack, this time using a heavy saucepan as a hammer.

Since early in our marriage, I've been the dish-washing-kitchen-clean-up person. Normally, I had no problem getting everything clean, dry and put away, but then Society decided that everyone needs to walk around with a humongous insulated cup at all times.

At first, the cups at least fit into the dishwasher or the drain rack in our sink. Then, year by year, they grew a bit with every new cuppy generation. A couple of years ago they began to grow faster than bamboo in a rain forest.

Our water heater is smaller than these cups.

Normally, I can manage my own pair of relatively modestly sized cups and my beloved wife Marsha's fleet of them, with exception of the one that grants her a refill discount at the local coffee shop. That one is the size of Danny DeVito wearing lifts and a top hat.

But as I write this, we are happily, joyfully hosting our children, their mates, and our grandchildren for a nice visit.

That the airlines could accommodate all the insulated cups they brought with them is a testament to the downsizing of airplanes, the seats of which are now 63% the width of a human bottom and have 43% of space for human feet. The planes now have four too few bathrooms, and the ones they have are 58% the size of a person in urgent need.

The cups become fatter and fatter and now they've grown handles. They have also frown taller.

Sometimes when I'm doing the dishes I give up entirely on trying to fit them in the dishwasher and wash them by hand. Lots of things next to my sink get washed by hand. Wooden things. Kitchen knives. Some plastic things. Huge pots and pans. Grandchildren.

Washing a few enormous insulated cups with their lids and sometimes with specialized dedicated straws is an annoying problem that would be easily solved if I'd use the bathtub to wash them, but water tainted with bubble bath is not good.

Marsha ordered a doodad online and it turned out to be the wrong size. The company emailed her a return shipping label that when printed is twice as big as the box she needs to return. The label is the size of an insulated cup that has been squashed flat by a steamroller.

She very sweetly asked me to figure out a way to downsize the form. I fiddled with my computer for an hour, accidentally deleted my printer from my network, but finally managed to print the form in the proper size.

Before bar codes and QR codes, it was easy. Paper, pen, tape and BINGO! The package would be ready to go. Nevertheless, old school, new school—what the Dickens! I managed to get the job done.

"Now I can take a break," I say as I hand the label to Marsha, "for it is a far, far better thing that I did, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than after I washed the cups.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

1 B	2 E	3 A	4 M	■	5 A	6 D	7 A	8 M	■	9 P	10 I	11 P	12 E	13 R
14 O	L	L	A	■	15 D	O	N	E	■	16 A	N	I	S	E
17 O	D	O	R	■	18 R	I	T	E	■	19 S	T	E	P	S
20 R	E	H	A	21 B	I	L	I	T	22 A	T	E	■	■	■
■	23 R	A	T	I	F	Y	■	■	24 M	A	N	25 T	26 A	27 S
■	■	■	28 H	O	T	■	29 O	30 R	B	■	31 D	A	F	T
32 S	33 T	34 R	O	P	■	35 S	T	E	E	36 P	■	37 C	O	O
38 T	R	A	N	S	39 L	I	T	E	R	A	40 T	I	O	N
41 A	I	M	■	42 Y	O	D	E	L	■	43 R	A	T	T	Y
44 M	A	I	45 M	■	46 P	E	R	■	47 I	L	L	■	■	■
48 P	L	E	A	49 S	E	■	■	50 S	T	O	L	51 E	52 N	■
■	■	■	53 S	T	R	54 I	55 P	C	A	R	T	O	O	56 N
57 C	58 A	59 T	T	Y	■	60 M	E	A	L	■	61 A	S	E	A
62 O	R	I	E	L	■	63 P	E	R	I	■	64 L	I	N	G
65 G	E	N	R	E	■	66 S	P	E	C	■	67 E	N	D	S

CROSSWORD

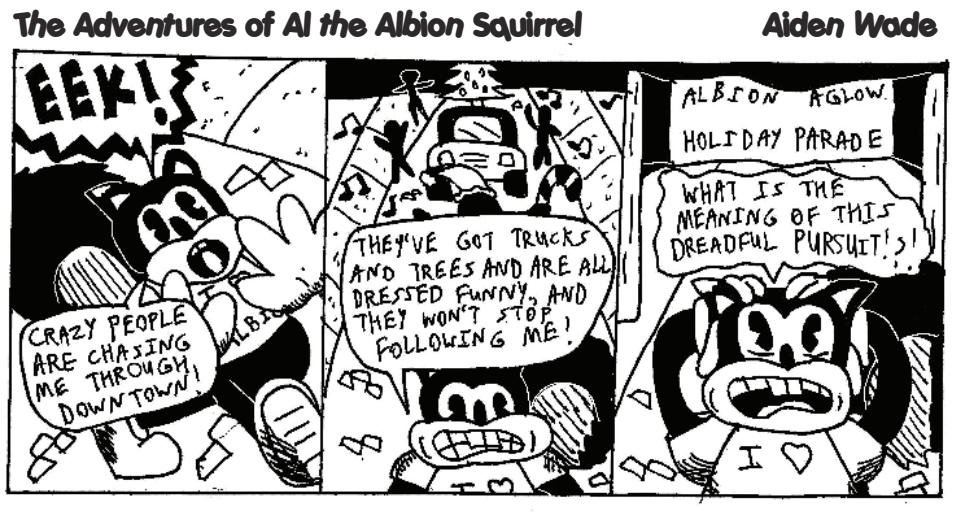
1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	10	■	11	12	13
14				■	15						■	16		
17				18							■	19		
20					■	21				■	22			
23					24	■	■	25		26			■	■
■	■	27				28	29						30	31
■	■	■	■	32				■	■	33				
34	35	36	37	■	38			39	40	■	41			
42				43	■	■	44			45	■	■	■	■
46					47	48					49	50	■	■
■	■	51					■	■	52				53	54
55	56			■	57		58	59	■	60				
61			■	62					63					
64			■	65						■	66			
67			■	68						■	69			

CLUES

Across
1. ___ Christian Andersen
5. Medicated lozenge
11. Stop on a crawl
14. Chill
15. "Hip Hip, ___!"
16. "___ calls?"
17. Admirer of anything French
19. On, as a lamp
20. Andrea Bocelli, for one
21. "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
22. Bit of dust
23. Hush-hush
25. Muhammad's religion
27. Light or popular music (2 wds)
32. Put one's foot down?
33. Magical wish granter
34. ___-friendly
38. Codeine source
41. Exclusive
42. Vestibule
44. Girasol, e.g.
46. Performance given only once at any one place (hyph., 2 wds)
51. Close-knit group
52. "Stop right there!"
55. Face-to-face exam
57. "Hamlet" has five
60. Boredom
61. Family head
62. HNO_2 (2 wds)
64. "___ not!"
65. Consecrate
66. Battering wind
67. Arch
68. Marked with sinuous lines, botany
69. Aims

Down
1. Sword handles
2. Acquiesce
3. Shade
4. Married woman, Spanish
5. Even if, briefly
6. Catch, in a way
7. ___ and aahs
8. Emotionally stressful event
9. Most robust
10. Artist's asset
11. Trigger, e.g.
12. Condo, e.g.
13. Information unit
18. Colgate rival
22. Bison features
24. Apprentice
26. Chair part
28. Chop (off)
29. Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
30. Bubkes
31. "Fancy that!"
34. Alien?
35. "My boy"
36. Someone visually attractive (2 wds)
37. Kidney-related
39. Bull markets
40. Buddy
43. Free from, with "of"
45. Narrow country roads
47. Granular
48. Bully
49. Period of legal minority
50. Classic yo-yo maker
53. Association of persons of the same trade
54. Keeps out of sight
55. "What are the ___?"
56. Aggravate
58. Beethoven's "Archduke ___"
59. Princes, e.g.
62. Bother
63. Adaptable truck, for short

The Adventures of Al the Albion Squirrel — **Aiden Wade**


EEK!
CRAZY PEOPLE ARE CHASING ME THROUGH DOWNTOWN!
THEY'VE GOT TRUCKS AND TREES AND ARE ALL DRESSED FUNNY, AND THEY WON'T STOP FOLLOWING ME!
ALBION AGLOW HOLIDAY PARADE
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS DREADFUL PURSUIT?!
I ♥

Want to see more of and support your favorite local comics?
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Marshall Public Schools

Your School of Choice District

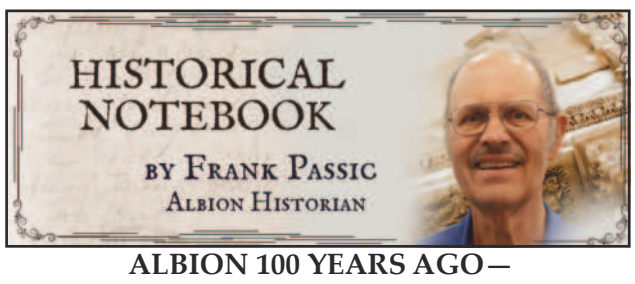
Gordon Elementary•Harrington Elementary•Hughes Elementary•Walters Elementary

Marshall Middle School•Marshall High School•Opportunity High School

Applications for all grade levels are now being accepted for second semester of the 2025-2026 school year. Second semester classes start January 5, 2026. Marshall Public Schools are TUITION FREE for students residing in Calhoun County or in any intermediate school district contiguous to the Calhoun County Intermediate School District.

For more information or an application call 269-781-1257. Applications are available at the Superintendent's Office at 100 East Green St., Marshall, Michigan or by visiting the schools' web site at: marshallpublicschools.org

Please be advised that as per Section 105 of PA300 and 105 C of PA119 of 1999 (School Aid Act), the Marshall Public Schools (MPS), by Board action on March 10, 2025, determined that MPS will be a "School of Choice" district for the first and second semesters of the 2025-2026 school year.



ALBION 100 YEARS AGO— DECEMBER 1925

We continue with our theme of "Albion—100 Years Ago. December 1, 1925: "Harry B. Parker, well known Albion manufacture and head of the Malleable Iron Company, was chosen president of the Albion Chamber of Commerce Monday evening. He succeeds George T. Bullen." "The city police raided the residence of William Gilchrist, colored, located just east of the brick store on N. Albion St. about 2 o'clock this morning and arrested nine persons."

December 2, 1925. "Mrs. Lewis Trine, Clark St., received word this morning of the death of her nephew, William Leightner of Shepherd, MI. Mr. Leightner was a resident of Springport about 15 years ago and is well known in Albion and vicinity." "Homer Cheatham, young colored man who was sentenced to 20 days in the county jail Tuesday by Justice Kate Bromeling on a charge of being disorderly, was allowed to go to his home to change his clothes, and failed to come back. An investigation disclosed the face that he had evidently slipped out of town."

December 3, 1925. "This afternoon at 5 o'clock when Miss Mary Fanning closed the window of the money order department at the post office, balanced her books and left for her home on Michigan Ave., she terminated a period of 32 consecutive years during which she has been serving the public of Albion and the United States government through the medium of the local post office." "Next week the members of the First Baptist Church will dedicate their new church building with a whole week of services." "The Pierce schoolhouse, located about three-quarters of a mile west of Marengo, was destroyed by a fire which started from an overheated heating plant early Wednesday evening."

December 4, 1925. "City Manager Donald F. Herrick announced today that he had received an offer from Oberlin, OH to become its first city manager, and that he had accepted. The Albion position has been paying $2,500 during the past year. It is understood that Oberlin is offering Manager Herrick a substantial increase over that amount, with promise of considerably more at the end of the first year."

December 7, 1925. "Announcement has been made of the formation of the Corliss-Rutz Publishing Company which today purchased the Concord News from State Representative Frank W. McKenzie, owner and publisher for the past 38 years. The new publishers, who two months ago purchased the Parma News from William E. Beebe, will take over the management of the Concord newspaper December 18. Rutz and Corliss are both local young men and graduates of Albion High School and Albion College."

December 22, 1925. Various letters to Santa: "Dear Santa: I am a boy 10 years old. I would like a sled, an electric train, a pair of horse slippers and if you have anything that a boy like me would like, please bring it a don't forget my cousins, they live on N. Monroe St. Your friend, Frank Sibal."

"Dear Santa: I am a girl 11 years old. I am in the 5th grade and haven't missed a day since school began. Every day I read the letters in the Albion paper to you and thought I would write also. No, I won't try and bankrupt you, as some of the little boys and girls ask for so many things that would cost you so much. All I want is a handkerchief, a bottle of perfume, a pocketbook as I lost mine, a ring, a game for my sister and I to play, some candy, nuts and oranges if you have any left. Ma says I am a nice girl. Thank you for what you brought me last year. Your friend, Viola Helen Rumsey, R.D. 7."

"Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me an auto that I can ride in. Please don't forget to bring Lawrence something too. Your little friend, Jack Pahl."

"Dear Santa: I am a boy 7 years old. I have tried to be good this year. Will you please bring me a cowboy suite, a sled and a pair of house slippers, and don't forget my brothers Frank and Robert, and bring them something too. Your friend, George Sibal."

"Dear Santa: "I am telling you what I want for Xmas. I want a table with two little chairs, and a set of dishes and lots of candy and nuts for Rover dog and me. I have been a good little boy. I am 6 years old. Please, goodbye Santa, Gerald Bunde."

December 26, 1925. "Cause of Eaton Rapids Typhoid Deaths Found. An 80-year-old woman who assisted in preparation of the Eaton Rapids "Death Dinner" has been discovered as the typhoid carrier who gave the disease to 34 persons at the meal, it was announced by the state department of health today. Three deaths have resulted so far from the dinner which was held at the Eaton Rapids Methodist Church on November 18. It was found that the aged carrier had prepared squash for the dinner at the church. She had mixed it with her hands and then put it in a warm place, allowing the typhoid germs to develop to deathly proportions."

December 29, 1925: "Director Dan Kick of the Albion Community Recreation Association announced today that because of the freezing up of the pipes in the high school gymnasium, necessitating repairs, there will probably be no community night recreation at the gym tonight or Wednesday night."

Jackson Police are collecting Toys for Tots

Jackson Police Chief-Christopher A Simpson recently announced that Jackson residents wanting to donate toys for kids in need this holiday season have a convenient location to drop off donations. The Jackson Police Department headquarters at 216 E. Washington Ave. is a designated Toys for Tots drop off site.

Toys for Tots is an annual program from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that collects toys for children in need during the holiday season. Residents are welcome to use a donation box in the police department lobby to submit donations. The lobby is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donations will be accepted through Monday, Dec. 15.

Only new, unwrapped toys for ages 0-15 years old will be accepted. Once collected by the Toys for Tots organization, the donations will be distributed to various non-profit organizations in Jackson County so they can be given to kids in need.

CALL TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY
517-524-8540

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5052 Page Ave., Jackson, MI 49201

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Haley L Depew, a single woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PHH Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: May 25, 2018
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 1, 2018
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $64,793.28
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Marshall, Calhoun County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 774 in Upper Village (now City) of Marshall, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 12, Calhoun Records.
Common street address (if any): 513 Clinton St, Marshall, MI 49068-1630
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 14, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1577403
(11-14)(12-05)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a certain Mortgage made by Marshall Spruce, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, as Mortgagor, to Citizens State Bank, a Michigan banking corporation, as Mortgagee, dated April 4, 2023, and recorded on April 13, 2023, in Book 4738 at Page 76, Calhoun County Records. The beneficial interest under the lien recorded in the official records of Calhoun County was assigned from Citizens State Bank to Sabah Capital, LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Company, by assignment recorded on October 20, 2025, in Book 4949, Page 709, Calhoun County Records. There is claimed to be due as of November 20, 2025, the sum of One Million Three Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Six and 50/100 Dollars ($1,339,476.50), and no suit or proceedings at law or equity have been instituted to recover the debt secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Calhoun County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on January 8, 2026. Said premises are located in the City of Marshall, Calhoun County, Michigan, and are described as: Parcel A: The North 64 feet of Lot 9, Block 33, Lower Village of the City of Marshall, according to the plat thereof as recorded in 3 of Plats, Page 11, Calhoun County Records. c/k/a 321 South Sycamore Street, Marshall, MI Tax ID: 13-53-000-709-00 Parcel B: The South 68 feet of Lot 9, Block 33, Lower Village of the City of Marshall, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in 3 of plats, Page 11, Calhoun County Records. c/k/a 420 West Spruce St., Marshall, MI Tax ID: 13-53-000-709-01 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale referred to above, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the purchaser who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period in accordance with MCL 600.3278 or as otherwise provided by law. TO ALL PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing Mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: November 20, 2025. Firm Name: Law Offices Aaron D. Cox, 23820 Eureka, Taylor, MI 48180. Firm Phone Number: (734)287-3664 November 20, 2025
(11-28)(12-19)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Josh Byrd, a single man and Lindsay C. Hollenbeck, a single woman, as joint tenants
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Owner Trustee on Behalf for CSMC 2018-RPL12 Trust
Date of Mortgage: July 5, 2007
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 10, 2007
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $71,949.99
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 2, Block 1, Post's 2nd Addition to Battle Creek, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 6, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Calhoun County, Michigan.
Common street address (if any): 98 Cliff St, Battle Creek, MI 49014-4302
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 28, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1578644
(11-28)(12-19)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on January 22, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Victoria English to Ruoff Mortgage Company, Inc. dated January 13, 2022 and recorded January 25, 2022 in Liber 4625 at Page 689, Calhoun County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $130,674.01. Said premises are located in Calhoun County, Michigan and are described as: LAND SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BATTLE CREEK, COUNTY OF CALHOUN, STATE OF MICHIGAN DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 51, CAINE'S 2ND ADDITION TO BATTLE CREEK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS, PAGE 12, CALHOUN COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as: 119 Caine Street, Battle Creek, MI 49014 Tax ID No. 1500-00-066-0 Said property is commonly known as 119 Caine St, Battle Creek, MI 49014. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: December 1, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-32519
(12-05)(12-26)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CALHOUN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Starlett Cousino, an unmarried woman, whose address is 174 Battle Creek Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49037, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Financial Resources, LLC, being a mortgage dated March 28, 2024, and recorded on April 8, 2024 in Liber 4814 Page 0464, Calhoun County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated October 8, 2025 and recorded on October 8, 2025 in Liber 4947 Page 0271, Calhoun County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR AND 47/100 DOLLARS ($81,424.47). Said premises are situated in the City of Battle Creek, County of Calhoun, State of Michigan, and are described as: The West 22 feet of Lot No. 169 and the East 22 feet of Lot No. 170 Meacham's Addition to Battle Creek, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 40 of Deeds, on Page 1, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Calhoun County, Michigan. Street Address: 174 Battle Creek Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49037 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: December 5, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6832
(12-05)(12-26)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CALHOUN COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Jim R Russell, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: May 25, 2007 Recorded on June 11, 2007, Liber 3278, on Page 284, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Seventy-Three Thousand Four Hundred Eleven and 10/100 Dollars ($73,411.10) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Calhoun County, and described as: Beginning 253 feet West of the Northeast corner of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 16, Town 2 South, Range 4 West, Sheridan Township, Calhoun County, Michigan; thence West 180 feet to a point 2213.60 feet East of the Northwest corner of said Section 16; thence South 200 feet; thence East 180 feet; thence North to the place of beginning. Also, beginning 253 feet West of the Northeast corner of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 16, Town 2 South, Range 4 West, Sheridan Township, Calhoun County, Michigan; thence West 180 feet, to a point 2213.60 feet East of the Northwest corner of said Section 16, thence South 200 feet to the true place of beginning; thence South 75 feet; thence East 10 feet; thence South 125 feet; thence East 170 feet; thence North 200 feet; thence West 180 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 26412 H Drive N, Albion, MI 49224 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1579307
(12-05)(12-26)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CALHOUN COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Kobe B. Scears, unmarried man Original Mortgagee: Fifth Third Bank, National Association Date of mortgage: September 18, 2024 Recorded on October 1, 2024, Liber 4856, on Page 812, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven and 84/100 Dollars ($126,967.84) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Calhoun County, and described as: LOT 106 OF THE PLAT OF FRANCES TERRACE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN LIBER 11 OF PLATS ON PAGE 2, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR CALHOUN COUNTY, MICHIGAN. Commonly known as 659 Stephanie St, Battle Creek, MI 49037 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1579305
(12-05)(12-26)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CALHOUN COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Landon Kahly, single man Original Mortgagee: GVC Mortgage, Inc. Date of mortgage: December 15, 2023 Recorded on December 28, 2023, Liber 4794, on Page 0879, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Five and 12/100 Dollars ($135,325.12) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Calhoun County, and described as: LOT 1, E.E. PRATT`S ADDITION NO. 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 9A OF PLATS, PAGE 37, CALHOUN COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as 1543 River Rd W, Battle Creek, MI 49037 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1579304
(12-05)(12-26)

CITY OF ALBION
ORDINANCE #2025-05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 34 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ARTICLE II DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SECTION 34-33 PLANS

Purpose and Finding:

In 2019-2020 the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) started the process to update its downtown development plan and tax increment financing plan. The process involved Beckett & Raeder working with the DDA, the City, and the community to garner feedback and recommendations for the plan. The amended and restated plan was approved by the DDA on March 4, 2020. However, it does not appear that the plan was ever sent to the City for approval. MCL 125.4218 requires that the amendment of a development plan or a tax increment financing plan be amended by ordinance. The following ordinance readopts the amended plan. Approval is recommended.

THE CITY OF ALBION ORDAINS:

Chapter 34, Article II, Section 34-33 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Albion is hereby amended as follows:

Section 34-33. Plans.

The downtown development and tax increment financing plans, as adopted by the downtown development authority of the City of December 16, 1988, amended May 1, 1992, amended on January 9, 2001, and amended March 4, 2020, in accordance with this Code and Public Act 57 of 2018, (MCL 125.4101, et seq.), as amended, are adopted by reference as though set forth herein for the purpose of promoting downtown development.

Section 2: Severability. This ordinance and each article, section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, part, provision, sentence, word and portion thereof are hereby declared to be severable, and if they or any of them are declared to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected.

Section 3: Repealer Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

This Ordinance shall take effect after publication on December 31, 2025.

First Reading:	Second Reading & Adoption:
November 17, 2025	December 1, 2025
Ayes 7	Ayes 7
Nays 0	Nays 0
Absent 0	Absent 0
Jill Domingo, City Clerk	Victoria Garcia-Snyder Mayor

The RECORDER
Morning Star

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The Recorder and the Morning Star will in no case be responsible for typographical or other errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any material at any time. The right is reserved to reject, omit, or edit any material offered for publication.

KiD to KiD Shop
Gently Used & Clean Kids Clothes
Sizes 0-16
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1041 Maple St | Albion, MI 49224

PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Labi, she is a 10 month old, solid black Labrador Retriever mix that came in as a stray. Labi is not as large as a typical Labrador, she is just 38lbs. This pup has lots of happy energy, she gets so excited to come out of the kennel her whole body wiggles. Labi had lots of fun playing in the snow but always comes back to her human for some loving. Labi is housetrained and particular about who might be her dog friends. She just needs someone who can spend some time teaching new things and going on new experiences. The Dog adoptions require an application. A meet and greet with your dog is mandatory. A cat room walk-through is available to test reaction. Dogs will go to approved applicants; the adoption fee is $150 medium/large dogs, $250 puppies/small dogs which includes vaccinations, microchip, and sterilization.

Meow is a one year old tabby, that was surrendered by her owner that just had to many animals. She has the tiger stripes and some brown mixed in there. Meow is wary of all the new sights and sounds at the shelter, she would just need a minute to warm up to new people and new environments. She gets along well with the other cats were she is housed. Meow would be a great lap warmer this winter. Come and meet this girl with greenish gold eyes today!

Cat adoption fees are $60 for one cat, $80 for two, which will include applicable tests, vaccines and spay/neutering.

The Shelter is located at 3370 Spring Arbor Road, in Jackson. Visiting the shelter is always best, but other resources include: Online applications: https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/803, fax to: 517-780-4750 or email to: animalshelter@mijackson.org.

For more information visit mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter. Current Shelter Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m to 4 p.m.

Oren is a spirited 2-year-old mixed-breed pup with a big personality to match his large size. This energetic boy loves to have fun-whether he's getting the zoomies, chasing after a ball, or engaging in a lively game of fetch, he's always ready for action. Oren's playful nature is paired with a joyful, goofy charm that makes him a delightful companion for anyone who loves an active, enthusiastic dog. He is neutered, up to date on vaccines, microchipped, and heartworm negative, making him fully prepared for his next adventure. Oren's adoption fee is $410. If you're looking for a fun-loving dog who brings excitement and plenty of smiles, Oren is ready to join your family!

Meet Eric, an adorable 4-month-old kitten with soft, smoky gray fur and bright, curious eyes. Weighing in at about 4 pounds, he's the perfect little bundle of joy ready to melt your heart. Eric warms up to new people quickly and isn't shy about showing his affection. The moment he feels your attention, he leans right in, purring happily and soaking up every bit of love you offer. His gentle nature and eagerness to bond make him a wonderful companion for anyone seeking a sweet, loyal kitten.

Eric is a cuddle enthusiast through and through. Whether he's curling up in your lap, resting on your shoulder, or nudging your hand for more pets, he's happiest when he's close to someone who cares for him. When he's not seeking out snuggles, Eric enjoys exploring and playing with toys, showing off his growing confidence and kitten charm. As he continues to develop, he's sure to become an even more loving and devoted member of the family.

Eric has been neutered and fully vaccinated, and his adoption fee is $85. He's ready to find a forever home where he can grow, feel secure, and offer endless affection in return.

If interested in Oren or Eric, please call or visit Cascades Humane Society, 1515 Carmen Drive in Jackson. They prefer appointments, but walk-ins are welcome.

Please call CHS at 517-787-7387, Tuesday through Saturday, from noon-to 6 p.m. (last adoption at 5:30 p.m.) to make an appointment. If you need a carrier, they have cardboard ones available for purchase. Applications for adoption are also available at www.chspets.org

COMBINED NOTICE
NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND
NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date Published:December5, 2025

City of Albion
112 W. Cass Street
Albion, MI 49224
517-629-5535

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about December 23, 2025 the above named City will request the Michigan Strategic Fund to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for the following project:

Albion Water-Related Infrastructure

Purpose: Reconstruct Bemer Street / Magnotta Street / Dean Drive including storm sewer, water main, sanitary sewer, sidewalks, concrete curb and gutter, new pavement, and lawn restoration.

City of Albion, Calhoun County, Michigan
Estimated Project Cost $2,809,000

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above-named City has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190).

The reasons for such decision not to prepare an EIS are as follows:

1. Through contact with various governmental agencies, it was determined that the proposed project will not cause any adverse impacts to the environment.

An Environmental Review Record respecting the proposed project has been made by the above-named City which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why an EIS is not required. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of federal funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDING

All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City to the Office of the Undersigned on or before December 22, 2025. All such comments so received will be considered and the City will not request the release of federal funds or take any administrative action on the proposed project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Albion will undertake the project described above with Community Development Block Grant funds from the Michigan Strategic Fund under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The City of Albion is certifying to the Michigan Strategic Fund that the City of Albion and Doug Terry in his official capacity as Interim City Manager consent to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval the City of Albion may use the Block Grant funds and the Michigan Strategic Fund will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

OBJECTIONS TO MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Michigan Strategic Fund will accept an objection to its approval only if it is on one of the following bases:

a) The certification was not in fact executed by the responsible entity's Certifying Officer

b) The responsible entity has failed to make one of the two findings pursuant to 58.40 or to make the written determination required by 58.35, 58.47 or 58.53 for the project, as applicable.

c) The responsible entity has omitted one or more of the steps set forth at subpart E of this part for the preparation, publication and completion of an EA.

d) The responsible entity has omitted one or more of the steps set forth at subparts F and G of this part for the conduct, preparation, publication and completion of an EIS.

e) The recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by this part before release of funds and approval of the environmental certification by HUD (or the state).

f) Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted to the Michigan Strategic Fund, c/o Michigan Economic Development Corporation, 300 North Washington Square, 4th Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48913.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the Michigan Strategic Fund. No objection received afterJanuary7, 2026 will be considered by the Michigan Strategic Fund.

Doug Terry, Interim City Manager
112 W. Cass Street
Albion, MI 49224

Household Services

NOTICE: Anyone providing $600 or more in materials and or labor for most residential remodeling, construction or repair is required by state law to be licensed.

TAYLOR BUILT. Together we build. Licensed and insured. Concrete, masonry, building renovations. Excavating services. Call for free estimate. 517-212-1650.

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Miscellaneous Household

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Auctions

Huge Annual Online Tool Auction! Featuring Snap-on, Milwaukee, Dewalt, Craftsman and more! Welders, compressors, lifts, heavy-duty power, and hand tools. Bid now through 12/15/2025 at Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Questions? Call Joe at 1-800-835-0495.

Winter Sportsman Auction. Bidding open. 250+ fine firearms, vintage sporting, antique & modern ammunition, militaria, tools. This is a Great sale! Shipping available. Bid anywhere anytime @JohnPeckAuctions.com. Offices Gladwin & Charlotte. Selling items like this? Call John Peck 989-345-4866.

POP CULTURE, VINTAGE and MCM TOYS, cast-iron mechanical banks, diecast cars, Star Wars Prints, vintage collectibles & more. Bid online now at BidItMi.com. Call Estate Auction Experts of Michigan, 313-600-5451.

Collectibles & Antiques

MICHIGAN AVE ANTIQUES: Buying and selling antiques, collectibles, gold and silver. Contact Darin, 116 E. Michigan Ave, Parma, 517-414-3759

Wanted Miscellaneous

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS- Other sports memorabilia and old vintage coins. Can be reached at 517-416-1629. We pay cash.

Miscellaneous

REACH ACROSS MICHIGAN With Community Papers of Michigan, Michigan MegaMarket Statewide Classified Network. Ads placed appear in free circulation community papers and shopping guides reaching the grass roots of Michigan. Your advertising can be delivered weekly to the more than 1.2 million households throughout the state. Only $249, 25 words or less. Call Morning Star, 517-524-8540.

NOTICE TO READERS! Morning Star cannot verify the authenticity of any specific offers presented by the following advertiser(s). Readers are advised to request additional information before submitting any cash or disclosing your credit card numbers.

AMISH-built storage sheds starting at $2,500. Custom sizes & colors. We deliver anywhere in Michigan! Call 989-832-1866. MyNextBarn.com

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Buyer of
STANDING TIMBER
Gary Keegan -Specializing in Walnut & Harwood Trees
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517-296-4601

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ONLINE AUCTION
Tuesday, December 16
Inspections: Tuesday, December 9 & Monday, December 15 (12-1pm)
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SHERIDAN REALTY & AUCTION CO.
Questions? Call us!
(517) 676-9800
www.SheridanAuctionService.com

Jackson's 100 Houses Program hits milestone

Photo by Elizabeth Ferszt

This house on High Street is an example of one of the houses the program is building.

By ELIZABETH FERSZT
Contributing Writer

The City of Jackson's 100 Houses Program has hit an impressive milestone, according to Cory Mays, coordinator for Housing Development. They have approved over half of all buyer applications and have constructed or built over a third of the houses in the 100 goal.

"53 buyers have been approved, and/or are in some stage in the process (of homeownership), under construction, lot selection, finished, or occupied," said Mays in an email.

"So far we have 32 homes completed, sold, or occupied, with another 21 in progress either under construction or pending start of construction," said Mays.

In general, Mays added, "Things are going great!"

Residents of Jackson have likely seen these two story, salt box style (straight up and down) houses being built on city owned lots all across the city. Like at the corner of Wisner and Wildwood, or on Ganson, High, 4th, Sulgrave and Waterloo Streets. The houses have a small footprint and fit respectfully on their lots and fit into their neighborhood location in terms of aesthetics.

The houses are approximately 1,200 square feet: the 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 2 story, 1,232 square feet model, built by Norfolk Homes. They have modern appliances, weather proofed windows, modern flooring, and other design features

According to the City's website, the "100 Homes Program aims to construct 100 new houses in the City of Jackson, utilizing vacant City-owned residential lots. All homes will be sold to qualified buyers earning up to 120% of the area median income. Residents and current non-residents can purchase these homes, with a traditional mortgage, and all homes must be owner-occupied."

If you qualify, the city provides $25,000 toward a downpayment on the mortgage.

Mays added, "We are still approving buyers, and we have only 47 opportunities remaining. People should apply now if they want a home. All funds must be spent by December of 2026, so we only have 13 months remaining."

"Other communities are taking note of our efforts, and we have been invited to speak through the state (both upper and lower peninsulas) and at conferences both in Michigan and beyond. We continue both sharing with and learning from other communities, which only helps make our program stronger," said Mays.

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You can make a family's Christmas brighter by donating to the
Concord-Pulaski Community Christmas Boxes

Monetary donations for Community Christmas boxes can be sent to : Concord-Pulaski Community Fund, PO Box 111, Concord MI 49237

Anyone wishing to help, or in need of food/gifts, or know of someone who could benefit from receiving a box...
Please contact Cheryl Reinker 517-524-6370
Student(s) must attend Concord Schools to receive a Christmas Box.
The deadline for requesting a Christmas Box is December 2, 2025

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Marshall's 61st Christmas Parade draws record crowd

Photos by Sylvia Benavidez

The 61st Annual Marshall Christmas Parade had 118 entries with 40 of them being floats. Gingerbread cookies happily danced on the Girl Scout Troop 80159 from the Marshall area.

Children and their families lined Michigan Avenue in downtwn Marshall.

Floats included the 4-H Rising Stars Horse Club out of Battle Creek.

Horses were a big hit at the 61st Annual Marshall Christmas Parade.

Walberg introduces legislation to rename the Jackson VA Clinic after local hero Herb Elfring

Courtesy photo

Herb Elfrig

Washington, D.C.--Congressman Tim Walberg (MI-05) introduced legislation this week to rename the Jackson VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic after Herb Elfring, a veteran from Jackson who passed away last year at the age of 102. Elfring was one of the last known survivors of Pearl Harbor and dedicated his life to helping veterans, including by founding the non-profit One Stop Veteran Resources and mentoring young veterans.

"Ahead of the 84th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, I am proud to introduce legislation to honor a true American hero and local legend, Herb Elfring," said Rep. Walberg. "I was fortunate enough to meet Herb before his passing and hear firsthand about his experiences during World War II and the bravery he displayed while defending our freedoms. He will forever be remembered for his patriotism, his commitment to our community, and his dedication to highlighting the importance of freedom with younger generations."

"When I first met Herb Elfring, he was searching for a home for his nonprofit, and within minutes I knew I needed to help him," said Darlene Soave of the DG Group Foundation who helped Elfring found One Stop Veteran Resources. "His goals were simple: he wanted every veteran to wake up with dignity and purpose, and he wanted every child to find the strongest path forward — guided by real mentors and real role models. Herb believed it was his duty to carry the torch to the next generation, to make sure the lessons of courage, humility, and service would outlive him. I believed in Herb from day one, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made. Renaming this VA clinic in his honor ensures that every veteran who seeks care here is touched by the spirit of a man who spent his entire life lifting others up."

From 1940 to 1945, Herb Elfring served in the U.S. Army National Guard and was a member of the 251st Coast Artillery. He was stationed at Hawaii's Camp Malakole near Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack, barely avoiding bullet fire from Japanese planes.

By 1944, Elfring had completed Officer Candidate School and was promoted to the rank of Captain. For his bravery in the line of duty, he was awarded various medals, including a World War II Medal, American Defense Medal, and the American Campaign Medal.

Elfring's service to his community continued as a civilian. He partnered with Darlene Soave to start the organization One Stop Veteran Resources to create programs for veterans and engage with our nation's youth. He encouraged local athletes, visited classrooms, and wrote back to every child who sent him a letter. He also was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Jackson and volunteered at food banks and donation drives like Toys for Tots.

Pearl Harbor Day ceremony planned

The Jackson County Veterans Council invites the community to attend the 4th annual Pearl Harbor Day ceremony at 2 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the State of Michigan Memorial to the USS Arizona located in the Sparks Foundation Park just off of High Street. This memorial includes a piece of the USS Arizona superstructure that was originally removed when the current structure was installed over the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor. The Michigan Memorial to the USS Arizona includes the names of the 28 Michiganders serving as sailors and Marines that died on the USS Arizona.

Parking is available courtesy of the Cascades Baptist Church. The guest speaker for this event is US Navy Commander John Wake.

Amtrak Train loses power near Marshall; evacuates passengers

On Thursday, Nov. 27, around 8:42 p.m., Calhoun County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of a disabled Amtrak train in Marengo Township near the City of Marshall. The Detroit-bound train, carrying approximately 107 passengers, lost engine power and became immobile during severe winter weather conditions.

Deputies and partner agencies worked together for several hours under challenging circumstances to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone on board. Passengers were evacuated from the train cars and transported by Marshall Public Schools Transportation buses to the Amtrak station in downtown Battle Creek. Remaining passengers were transferred to a second Amtrak train that arrived at the scene. No injuries were reported.

The Calhoun County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Marengo Township Fire Department, Marshall Police Department, Marshall Area Firefighters Ambulance Authority, Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority, and Marshall Public Schools.

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Among new Marshall shops opening, shuttered Great Lakes Candy & Cones has new owners

Photo by Sylvia Benavidez

Lauren Aronoff and her father Keith Aronoff operate the re-opened Great Lakes Cones & Candy in Marshall. Keith Aronoff said that so far they have added 18 flavors of fudge made from an old Mackinac Island recipe from the 1860s or '70s by his brother Mark.

Courtesy photo

The Busy Paintbrush Arts & Crafts Studio celebrated their opening earlier this fall with a chamber ribbon cutting. Pictured from left to right: Kierith Kurth, economic coordinator, Choose Marshall; MAEDA Board Member Jack Reed, Sturgis Bank; Joey Steele, Busy Paintbrush Studio; Trisha Steele, owner, Busy Paintbrush Studio; Chamber Ambassador Dora Presecan, Spartan Podiatry; Patty Williams, business development manager, Choose Marshall.

Courtesy photo

Isla Blue Boutique opened recently in downtown Marshall with a ribbon cutting. Pictured from left to right: Patty Williams, business development Manager, Choose Marshall. Chamber Ambassador Dora Presecan, Spartan Podiatry; Lisbeth Gresley, Isla Blue; Bella Hills, Isla Blue; Kelli Hills, owner, Isla Blue; Abby Judy, Isla Blue; Chamber Ambassador Jenna Hurd-Begg, VantagePointe Financial; Kierith Kurth, office manager, Choose Marshall; Nikki Roberts, visitor service representative, Choose Marshall

Courtesy photo

Urban Reflections Lifestyle celebrated their recent opening with a ribbon cutting. Pictured from left to right: Brittany Bennett, Sprinkles and Sparkles; Elaine Smith; Chloe McAllister; Maud McAllister with River; Karen Burghdorf; Marissa Burghdorf, owner, Urban Reflections Lifestyle; Tyler Burghdorf, owner, Urban Reflections Lifestyle; Joelle Knoch; MAEDA Board Member Jack Reed, Sturgis Bank; Christy Ramey; Kimber Thompson, director of Tourism, Choose Marshall; Vicki Beardslee, visitor services representative, Choose Marshall; Patty Williams, business development manager, Choose Marshall.

By SYLVIA BENAVIDEZ
Contributing Writer

Chamber ribbon cuttings in Marshall's downtown have marked several new shops opening and one being rescued from oblivion. Businesses such as Pasta Bella which opened last November to the more recent Sweet Peas Children's Thrift Shop, Nani Baby & Children's Boutique, Isla Blue Boutique, Busy Paintbrush Arts & Crafts Studio, and Quothe the Raven, a metaphysical shop, all bring variety to the downtown scene. Urban Reflections has expanded to Urban Reflections Lifestyles. However, last month one ribbon cutting celebrated an established Marshall business being rescued from permanent closure.

Great Lakes Cones & Candy located on 127 W. Michigan Ave. since 2021 had become known to Marshall residents for their Hershey's ice cream, fresh squeezed lemonade, and wide variety of traditional candies that customers could scoop themselves. The previous owners had other business interests that eventually took up most of their time, so they put the candy and ice cream shop up for sale. Their last day was Sept. 27. They were about to give up selling the business when the Aronoff family of Jackson saw it was for sale and decided to take the plunge.

Shop manager and retired truck driver Keith Aronoff explained that his brother, Mark, spotted the Marshall business and the spark of interest was lit for the whole family. "We bought the business not the building. I loved it," said Aronoff. Owning it seemed like a natural fit since his brother makes fudge and caramel corn in Plainwell. Currently, Great Lakes Cone & Candy sells 18 different flavors of fudge. Aronoff said, "We brought in the fudge and the caramel corn and those are the only new things that I have added so far. I would like to bring in nostalgic candy bars."

"It's a multi-generational (venture). There are three generations of us working it," said Aranoff. His mother, Elizabeth owns the business, his daughter Lauren works the floor, and he manages the store as well as a convenience store in Jackson.

Patty Williams, business development manager of Choose Marshall, shared that she appreciated that it's family business of three generations. She likes that the candy store is personal and unique to Marshall.

Having variety and keeping unique thriving businesses is key to a healthy downtown. "They made a presence here. It's important to mantain a diverse offering of retail, service, and hospitality businesses," said Williams. "Their shop is not in every town and it's a bit old school. They are passionate about what they are doing and it's a family business. In bigger cities with huge shops, how often can you go in and talk to the owner?"

A ribbon cutting for an existing store has a purpose. "We wanted people to recognize the shop is under new management and to invite them to explore what they have to offer," said Williams.

People have been coming into the store to tell them how glad they are that the Aranoffs kept the business up and running. "I feel like the customer flow has been steady, and so far, I have enjoyed selling candy and meeting the people of Marshall. They all seem like a really friendly group," said Lauren

The family wants to keep the nostalgic feel and are hoping to add a soda fountain. Keith explained, "They are hard to come by because no one is manufacturing new soda fountains anymore. I am going to have to find a rebuilt one if I want one."

They want their place to become a destination and a place where families can learn and play. Lauren explained that kids can get their first sense of independence by making their own candy bags. "They can pick and choose whatever they want, and practice counting and mix their choices," she said.

The Aronoffs want adults to remember what it was like to be a kid filled with wonder. Keith shared, "I hope the adults start acting like kids in a candy store. That's the kind of environment I'd like to create. People don't have enough fun."

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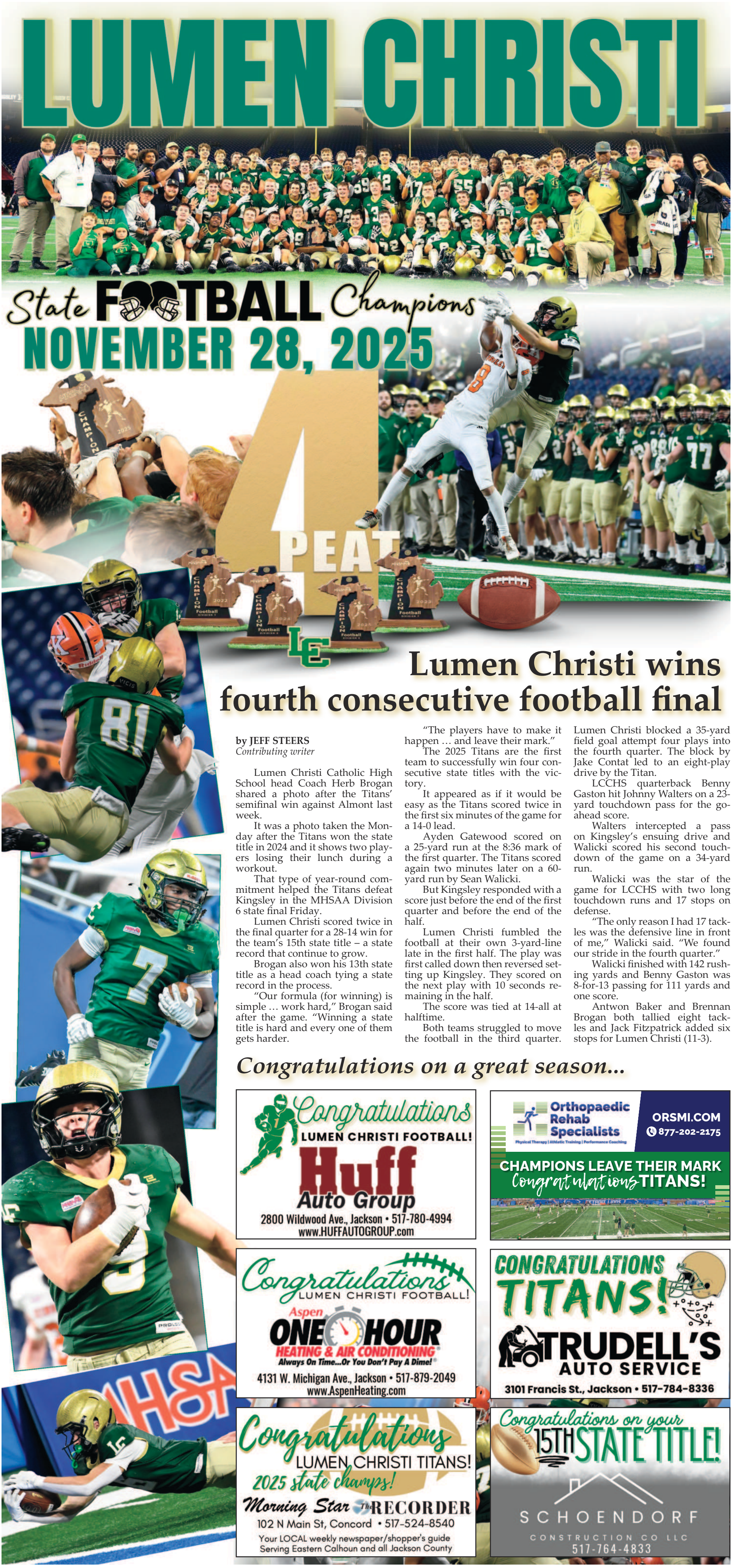

Lumen Christi wins fourth consecutive football final

by JEFF STEERS
Contributing writer

Lumen Christi Catholic High School head Coach Herb Brogan shared a photo after the Titans' semifinal win against Almont last week.

It was a photo taken the Monday after the Titans won the state title in 2024 and it shows two players losing their lunch during a workout.

That type of year-round commitment helped the Titans defeat Kingsley in the MHSAA Division 6 state final Friday.

Lumen Christi scored twice in the final quarter for a 28-14 win for the team's 15th state title – a state record that continue to grow.

Brogan also won his 13th state title as a head coach tying a state record in the process.

"Our formula (for winning) is simple … work hard," Brogan said after the game. "Winning a state title is hard and every one of them gets harder.

"The players have to make it happen … and leave their mark."

The 2025 Titans are the first team to successfully win four consecutive state titles with the victory.

It appeared as if it would be easy as the Titans scored twice in the first six minutes of the game for a 14-0 lead.

Ayden Gatewood scored on a 25-yard run at the 8:36 mark of the first quarter. The Titans scored again two minutes later on a 60-yard run by Sean Walicki.

But Kingsley responded with a score just before the end of the first quarter and before the end of the half.

Lumen Christi fumbled the football at their own 3-yard-line late in the first half. The play was first called down then reversed setting up Kingsley. They scored on the next play with 10 seconds remaining in the half.

The score was tied at 14-all at halftime.

Both teams struggled to move the football in the third quarter. Lumen Christi blocked a 35-yard field goal attempt four plays into the fourth quarter. The block by Jake Contat led to an eight-play drive by the Titan.

LCCHS quarterback Benny Gaston hit Johnny Walters on a 23-yard touchdown pass for the go-ahead score.

Walters intercepted a pass on Kingsley's ensuing drive and Walicki scored his second touchdown of the game on a 34-yard run.

Walicki was the star of the game for LCCHS with two long touchdown runs and 17 stops on defense.

"The only reason I had 17 tackles was the defensive line in front of me," Walicki said. "We found our stride in the fourth quarter."

Walicki finished with 142 rushing yards and Benny Gaston was 8-for-13 passing for 111 yards and one score.

Antwon Baker and Brennan Brogan both tallied eight tackles and Jack Fitzpatrick added six stops for Lumen Christi (11-3).

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Hanover-Horton opens with two wins

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Hanover-Horton High School opened the 2025-2026 season with a pair of wins at Concord Wednesday.

The Comets defeated Potterville 45-18 and Concord 47-24 in a pair of non-conference matches.

Potterville defeated Concord in the opening match 36-24.

Reed Mattews earned a pair of pins at 285 pounds to pace the Comets. A.J. Lusby pinned one opponent and earned a hard-fought 3-0 win against Potterville.

Derek Guzman (132 pounds) and Ethan Cesco (138) earned pins for Concord in the Potterville match.

Zion Eddings (126), Guzman (132), and Jordyan Metcalf (150) earned pins for Concord in the match against Hanover-Horton.

Here are scores from opening night in wrestling for area teams.

Columbia Central Quad: Columbia Central defeated Blissfield 48-35 at home. Hayden Handy (165), Liam McMurtry (175), Carter Napoleon (190), and Dylan Boone (285) earned pins for the Golden Eagles. Blissfield defeated East Jackson 60-9 in another match. Jordan Allain of East Jackson earned a win at 175 pounds.

Springport Tri-Meet: The Spartans defeated Ovid-Elsie 59-12 in one match. Shamus O'Hearon (120), Raymond Courter (132), Jacob Potter (138), Wyatt Burns (144), Andon Zienert (150), Tanner Severns (175), and Kaden Sizemore (190) earned pins for the Spartans.

Jackson 54, Lansing Sexton 16: Eden Ngyuen (120), Trenton Prater (138), Kanye Cain (150), Andrew Anderson (157), Goerge Tobey (165), and Laquinton Anthony (175) all earned pins for the Vikings.

Northwest 40, Harper Creek 36: The Mounties earned a big Interstate Eight Conference victory to start the season. Jeffrey Miller, Juan Asta, Jackson Edwards, Jaeden Brewer, and Aidyn Williams earned pins for the Northwest in the win.

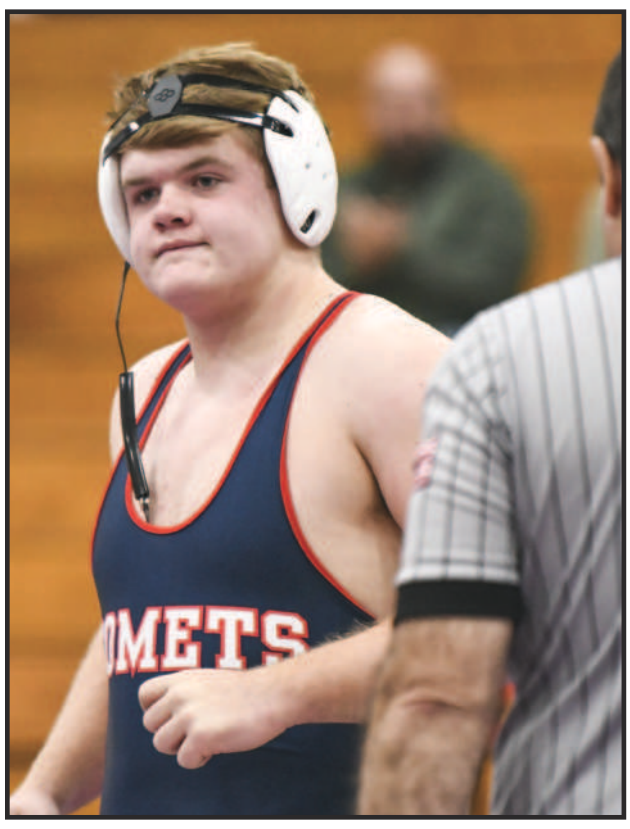

Photo by Jeff Steers
Hanover-Horton High School wrestling captain Reed Matthews earned a pair of pins at Concord Wednesday night.

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Basketball
Concord off to quick start

Photo by Jeff Steers

Jett Smith of Concord High School has scored 34 points in the Yellow Jackets' first two wins to open the season.

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

The Concord High School boys varsity basketball team is off to a quick start … literally.

The Yellow Jackets scored 31 points in the opening quarter of game one and are 2-0 following wins over Homer and Hillsdale Academy.

Here are scores from local teams as boys' basketball kicked off Monday.

Concord 72, Homer 28: Concord had a nice start to the season with 31 points in the first quarter against their rivals. Jett Smith scored 19 points, Brady Garrett finished with 16 points, and Connor Stevens scored 13 points for Concord. Brock Butler led Concord with seven points.

Maple Valley 56, East Jackson 45: The Trojans lost at home in a non-conference battle. Anthony Armstead scored 11 points in the contest including eight in the final quarter. K.J. Olivier also finished with 11 points for EJHS.

Lansing Christian 67, Jackson Christian 30: The Royals fell on the road in non-conference action to start the season. Caleb Lanham led JCHS with nine points and nine rebounds.

Columbia Central 55, Hillsdale 48: The Golden Eagles opened with a home victory against Hillsdale. David Munro scored 14 points and Conor Rentfrow finished with 13 points for CCHS. Nolan Schiel and Dylan Penix added seven points each in the victory.

Bath 46, Napoleon 39: The Pirates lost on the road in non-conference action. Tyler Nall and Gavin Davis each scored a dozen points for the Pirates.

Onsted 75, Hanover-Horton 73 (OT): The Wildcats won on the road against Hanover-Horton in non-conference action. Brody Bially led HHHS with 25 points.

Jackson 58, Advanced Technology 53 (OT): Phil Thompson won his first game as head coach of the Vikings. Tre Pierce finished with 20 points and Jaydon Ross added 14 points for Jackson.

Michigan Center 62, Lenawee Christian 40: The Cardinals won on the road in non-conference action against Lenawee Christian.

Northwest 65, Adrian Madison 53: The Mounties won on the road in a non-conference matchup Tuesday.

Springport 61, Vandercook Lake 21: Dallas Higelmire scored 19 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for Springport in the win. Hunter Miller added 13 points and Tucker Wiginton finished with 12 points and four assists for Springport.

Marshall 49, B.C. Lakeview 39: Clark Erwin scored 19 points and pulled down 11 rebounds and Lincoln Fuller added 11 points and six rebounds for Marshall.

Marshall Academy 79, Tekonsha 13: Marshall Academy earned a road in to open the season.

Tecumseh 48, Western 38: The Panthers lost at home in a non-conference matchup to start the season.

Quincy 43, Grass Lake 27: The Warriors fell at home to start the season.

Concord 65, Hillsdale Academy 42: Darrell Dean Jr. scored 20 points, Jett Smith finished with 15 points, and Brady Garrett added 12 points for Concord.

Springport 52, Parchment 49: The Spartans start the season at 2-0 with a road win. Five players scored at least eight points as Tucker Wiginton tallied 11 points, Dallas Higelmire finished with 10 points, Hunter Miller and Brody Baum scored nine points apiece, and Derek Miller added eight points.

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Bowling scores from area high school teams

Photo by Jeff Steers

Olivia Stone of Marshall High School rolls her bowling ball during a match Tuesday against Northwest.

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

BOYS BOWLING

Northwest 21, Marshall 9: Jake Brafford finished with a 219 high game for the Mounties. Easton Collier rolled a 194 game for Marshall.

Columbia Central 17, Homer 13: The Golden Eagles swept the Baker games for a 10-0 lead. David Bielby and Zach Schultz won matches for CCHS to pull out the victory.

GIRLS BOWLING

By JEFF STEERS Kayleigh Molnar and Alexis Henry won matches for CCHS in the contest. Molnar rolled a high game of 213 and Henry 169.

Northwest 20, Marshall 10: Casey Jahr finished with a 186 game for the Mounties. Olivia Stone rolled a 179 game for Marshall.

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The holiday season can be a difficult time of year for some people. Lack of essential food and clothing is a perennial problem for some families. Even worse is not being able to afford meaningful Christmas gifts for your children. Some even struggle to afford a Christmas tree.

We, with your financial support, would like to help as many families as we can this year. In the sixteen years since we started this program, we've granted Christmas wishes to hundreds of families in need. We'd like to grant even more this year, but we need your help. That's why we're hosting the Christmas Wish Program.

Over the past few weeks, we have asked our readers to contact us with written requests for help. We are looking for those families with simple requests, such as a turkey or food for Christmas dinner, gifts for their children, winter coats, boots, and mittens etc. It is those people we wish to help.

The following letters are just a few of the dozens we have received. If you need help, please mail your letter to: PO Box 189, Allegan MI 49010 or email WilcoxNewspapers@gmail.com. To be eligible you must include your name, address and a phone number for verification. The deadline to submit letters for help is December 8th.

If you'd like to help, readers are welcome to make donations by calling 269-657-5080 or 989-386-4414. Due to limited space, we are unable to accept material items.

Hello, I am a 67 year old woman living in a motel room with my 2 grandchildren. I've been forced into this living condition by my home I was renting being condemned. I've been looking for housing and I am seeking assistance as this is a hard time for me and my family with the holidays right around the corner . Trying to maintain the weekly motel fees, application fees for homes and trying to still make sure my grandkids have a Christmas. If there is any help that could be provided for us it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

I'm a mother of three, two boys one girl and two animals. Boy age 8, boy age 6, girl age 8. And looking for help for Christmas. Low income household, father is the only income in the house trying to support all. We heat with wood. So help with wood would be amazing. List of some things that would be amazing.

Girl likes Stich, Barbies, art stuff and clothing size 10. Needs queen bed set.

Boy age 8 likes Mindcraft, trucks. Size 9 clothing. Needs twin bed set

Boy age 6 likes monster trucks, dinosaurs. Size 9 clothing. Needs twin bed set.

Father works outdoors all the time so warm socks, hat, gloves, boots size 11, would be amazing.

Mother loves to cook, candles, needs a new vacuum, ours don't suck anymore been using a broom.

Dog and cat- toys. Cat food any kind. Dog food Hi-Pro from Victor.

Help with household items, laundry soap, paper towel, toilet paper, dish soap, cleaning stuff any.

Anything helps!

I'm writing to you for my Grandson and great grandchildren, he has 3 and his girlfriend has 2 and they're expecting soon. I would love to see them have a good Christmas. Toys would be great for them, even some clothes. They are struggling trying to stay where they are living now. But her family want them out of there. They are looking for another place to live. My husband and I are on Social Security, we try as much as we can. Anything would help and much appreciated. I just pray they have a good Christmas. 2 boys ages 2 and 5, 3 girls ages 3, 4, and 5. Any help would be awesome. Thank you so much

Good afternoon, I believe I received some help from you a few years ago when my husband and I were living in bad conditions with one vehicle that needed many repairs. Your gift that year helped tremendously. We were able to make the needed repairs on our vehicle and had a little money left over to buy our dogs a few toys for Christmas.

My husband and I have since been able to make our situation a little better, but money is still incredibly tight. I work a job that has us off of work for about 3 weeks around Christmas and it is beyond difficult to be able to make it through January without those paychecks. Unfortunately, Christmas has become just another day for my husband and I. We struggle so much to even make it by in general that we never have any extra money to use for any kind of gifts. If we were to receive help this year, it would go towards getting us some clothing and shoes (we each only have one pair), as well as help paying for our propane and other bills during the time in January. If we had any extra, it would absolutely go to getting each other a gift or two for Christmas.

What you do is amazing and cannot be appreciated enough. Thank you for considering me and my little family.

Hello, I came across your article about those in need of holiday help to apply with a request. I am writing to ask for some help to bring my family and I together for some Christmas dinner cheer. I am currently unemployed seeking work and nothing has been easy to come upon for employment for me at this time. I would really appreciate if I could get some help to make Christmas for myself and my children. I have a 28 and 16 year old that I know for sure will be with me for Christmas I also have a 30 year old but not so sure if he can be with as he lives miles away at this time. I could really use some help especially trying to provide Christmas for at least my 16 year old at this time if able. I am currently staying at the Jackson Interfaith Shelter. Again thank you for even the possibility of recognition for help for the holidays even the thought of kindness towards the community means so much to see happiness as it is already hard for many of us. Happy Holidays to all. I hope everyone has a blessed one!

Hi, how are you? Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I am a single mom raising 5 kids by myself. All boys ages 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17. We have been in a bad relationship with their father for years. Have been raising them on my own, this year has been extremely rough on me and my family trying to pay the bills and keep food on the table. I have a lot of health issues that I am dealing with. I have heart problems and diabetes, low iron and calcium but I thank God every day that I wake up. We just have been financially struggling to get by and times have been really hard. My refrigerator works when it feels like, sometimes I have to shop day by day if I can afford it. My car runs when it wants to start. It has its problems. I am embarrassed to ask but I could use some help for Christmas for my kids. I am not asking for myself for Christmas angels. They love outdoors things, Christmas dinner, clothes, shoes, blankets, or gift cards. Anything would be a blessing. Thank you.

I am not writing this for myself, this is for my daughter. She has Addison's disease, and Graves' disease which are both autoimmune diseases. She gets sick really easy. She is a single mom of one daughter and taking care of her with no help from others. We do what we can but I'm raising 2 of my granddaughters so it's hard for me to do much, but she is unable to work at all. She barely leaves the house in fear of catching a cold or something and she has zero income and because she can't work they are threatening to take her food stamps away. She is so worried that her daughter Cameron won't have a Christmas and seeings nobody will help her she won't ask for it so I'm asking for her. If you can make it so Cameron has a Christmas it would be greatly appreciated. If you need more information feel free to contact me. It would be a great blessing to me if there is someone out there that can help her.

Please consider my family: my husband has not been able to come home to the USA for 6 years (his daughter has not seen him and she needs heart surgery). I did get him to Michigan in April but his passport and visas had expired and the government made him wait in Canada. I've mostly gotten that paid- all except $500 which I plan on paying in December? I need frequent flyer miles or ticket either plane or train? To make matters worse, I now need heart surgery for a hole in my heart (which is allowing blood clots to pass and give me mini strokes). If you or your donors can help in any of these things please.

I'm a middle aged woman who is having a hard time right now and could use a Christmas miracle. I work full time and can barely make ends meet. Any extra money I had went to buy tires for my car so I can get to work and my doctor appointments. I was just diagnosed with cancer and would appreciate any kind of help with my rent and groceries since I will not be able to work at this time because I have to have surgery. Thank you for helping families and giving hope to so many people. God bless you

Good morning

The past few years have been a struggle for many families including myself, A few years ago my girlfriend and I were involved in a powered parachute accident in 2021 leaving me unable to fulfill daily activities and perform and hold a job due to the inability of mobility. I shattered the bones in my right foot struggling with several doctor appointments to gain strength and surgery possibly again in the near future and tore my meniscus in the left, leaving me unstable at times struggling to adjust to this new lifestyle I also went through a divorce that ended with me losing everything I owned, my clothes, my home, had to sell all my vehicles at the courts listed value regardless of the evidence and proof of purchase and sale receipts, spent 3 months in jail for not having $120,000 to pay ex wife after forced to give up everything I owned prior to our marriage or acquired after our separation. Since the accident my girlfriend also has trouble with her right knee with a chronic tear in her ACL and now a cyst around the knee. She struggles with daily activities. Also I currently am struggling with personal needs and clothes that fit myself. I try my best to provide for myself, girlfriend and her son. Christmas is a hard time as it is for everyone. I don't want to sound too needy but I really could use a new pair of shoes as mine is worn down from having to walk on the side of them.

Dear Mike- I am a 75 year old disabled veteran. I took in a 24 year old young man, his 22 year old girlfriend, and her 22 month old child. They were all homeless. They have zero income and both ADHD. The young man is also epileptic and his seizures are increasing in numbers and severity. He has become like a son to me. The problem is that when they came to live with me they brought in bedbugs. My home is now infected with them. This is not good for any of us, but especially for the baby. I only receive Social Security so I do not have the money to have our home disinfected. Is there any possibility of you knowing a company that would donate their services? It would make a huge difference in our lives and our home. I have always hated to ask for help but this is not only for me. It is to help a young couple struggling with a little guy, my buddy. Thank you so very much for taking the time to read my letter and please have a great holiday season.

I am writing to ask for help for a friend. If you can that's great, if not totally understand. She needs help with her 5 kids that she has. She just got custody of her niece and nephew. Their mom got into some bad stuff so she has them. She signed up for other programs not sure if she will get help. She needs boots for them, blankets, clothes, and basic necessities for them. She isn't needing or asking for much. But I wanted to write and ask if she could get some help please. She does what she can but it doesn't seem to be enough she thinks.

Christmas Wish
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Dear local businesses, we need your help!
We, with your financial support, would like to help as many families as we can this year. Throughout the years we've granted Christmas Wishes to hundreds of local families. We'd like to grant even more this year, but we need your help.
That's why we're hosting the Christmas Wish Program.
Here's how the Christmas Wish Program works
Over the next few weeks, we will be asking our readers to contact us with written requests for help. We are looking for those families with simple requests, such as a turkey or food for Christmas dinner, gifts for their children, winter coats, boots, and mittens. It is those people we wish to help.
How can you get involved?
All we ask is that you advertise in the newspaper twice, through the end of December. Twenty percent (20%) of your purchase will go to support the Christmas Wish Program. For example, if you buy two 1/8-page ads, at $150/week, 20% or $60, will go towards helping the families in need.
You can use the ad space to promote your business for holiday shopping, wish your customers and friends Season's Greetings, or whatever you would like to promote! So, why not advertise with us this Christmas season, and help provide food, clothing, and other essentials for some of the less fortunate local families?
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